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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 5 APRIL 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and United Kingdom aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 16 and 27 March 1999 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States of America, the United Kingdom and the States that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to cause death and injury to hundreds of civilians as well as serious damage to private and public property. By offering logistic support to the United States of America and the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are acting as their chief accomplices in the aggression against Iraq, and hence bear international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and United Kingdom aircraft and damage caused during the period 16-27 March 1999

1. Northern region: 60 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Irbil, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Ayn Zalah, Zakho, Rawanduz, Baibo, Sinjar and Dukan Daur.

2. Southern region: 231 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, over the following cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basra, Diwaniyah, Najaf, Amarah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Shanafiyah, Rumaythah, Rifa'i, Umm Qasr, Safwan, Lasaf, Qala't Sukkar, Madinah, Ansab, Nakhib, 'Afak and Shatrat al-Faw.

3. At 1100 hours on 16 March 1999 eight formations of United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Turkish airspace and comprising F-14s, F-15s and F-16s supported by an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft, violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. These formations flew 15 sorties, overflying areas in the Governorates of Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa and bombing service installations in Mosul. Our air defence systems, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1310 hours, drove them off.

4. At 1510 hours on 16 March 1999 13 formations of United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwait airspace and supported by AWACS and E2-C early warning systems aircraft operating from Saudi airspace violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. The formations flew 32 sorties from Saudi airspace and 17 from Kuwaiti airspace, overflying the Basra, Najaf and Muthanna Governorates. Our air defence systems, acting in self-defence, engaged them and, at 1015 hours, drove them off.

5. At 1215 hours on 16 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region, dropping two bombs on a civilian site in the Mosul area. Our air defence systems, acting in self-defence, engaged the offensive aircraft and drove them off.

6. At 1700 hours on 18 March 1999 two Kuwaiti patrol boats intercepted an Iraqi fishing vessel in Iraqi territorial waters in the Khawr Abdullah waterway to the east of buoy No. 7. They opened fire on the vessel (Registration No. 155/Basra), shattering the windows of the wheelhouse. The Kuwaiti patrol boats ordered the master, Adil Murtada Abd, to lower the vessel's flag and to hand over the compass and the identity papers of the nine fishermen aboard.

7. At 0815 hours on 19 March 1999 nine formations of United States and United Kingdom aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti airspace and comprising F-14s, F-15s, F-16s and Tornadoes, supported by two AWACS early warning system aircraft operating from Saudi airspace, violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. The formations flew 19 sorties from Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basra, Dhi Qar and Muthanna Governorates and bombed a number

of service installations, injuring several civilians during the aggressive bombing raid. The aircraft departed at 1015 hours.

8. At 1003 hours on 19 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace over Umm Qasr.

9. At 1030 hours on 20 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the northern region, flying 14 sorties. They overflew Aqrah, Amadiyah, Dohuk and Ayn Zalah before departing at 1230 hours.

10. At 1555 hours on 20 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace, flying 18 sorties from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Basra, Qurnah, Chabaish, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Shanafiyah and Lasaf before departing at 1655 hours.

11. At 1145 hours on 21 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region, flying a total of 30 sorties, of which 24 were from Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Ushbayjah, Salman, Najaf, Samawah, Hayy, Shanafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar and Rumaythah before departing at 1345 hours.

12. At 1810 hours on 22 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region, flying a total of eight sorties, of which six were flown from Saudi airspace and two from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Salman, Artawi and Busayyah before departing at 1828 hours.

13. At 0818 hours on 24 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region, flying a total of 17 sorties, of which 13 were flown from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Salman, Artawi, Busayyah, Lasaf, Samawah, Shanafiyah and Chabaish before departing at 1040 hours.

14. At 0900 hours on 25 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region, flying a total of 33 sorties, of which 27 were flown from Saudi airspace and six from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Salman, Artawi, Busayyah, Jalibah, Shanafiyah, Hayy, Nasiriyah, Amarah and Qal'at Sukkar before departing at 1750 hours.

15. At 1445 hours on 26 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region, flying a total of 19 sorties, of which 15 were flown from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Salman, Busayyah, Lasaf, Samawah, Ushbayjah and Rifa'i before departing at 1655 hours.

16. At 0910 hours on 27 March 1999 United States and United Kingdom aircraft violated Iraq's airspace in the southern region, flying a total of 21 sorties, of which 17 were flown from Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew Salman, Artawi, Busayyah, Hayy, Shanafiyah, Chabaish, Shatrah, Qal'at Sukkar before departing at 1135 hours.